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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Spokesman-Review Forum

To be published, letters must have the signature and address of the writer. Only a representative sampling of those received can be published and none can be returned. Address letters to The Forum, The Spokesman-Review.

Report Disputed

The undersigned parents of Shadle Park high school students wish it to be known that we feel there was considerable difference between what actually happened at the state AAA basketball tournament and what your reporter, Bob Larrigan, stated happened in Sunday's paper under the heading "Tourney World Is Fantasy" and subheading, "Officiating Good; Shadle Fans Fuss."

We, by coincidence, gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Livengood for a small dinner honoring the coaches and players of our city champion basketball team. Nearly all of us attended the state basketball tournament and NONE of us saw the "unruly rooting section" nor the "throwing of paper wads at officials." We have checked with others, some of whom have no reason to be anything but neutral, and we have found no one who agrees with Mr. Larrigan.

We would appreciate your investigation of this instance of poor reporting, the publication of this letter and an early retraction of the statements in question.

HAL CONLON, CARL LIVENGOOD, DR. ROBERT J. STEPHAN, WAYNE C. BEST, MEL WICHTERMAN, VIRGINIA B. STEPHAN, VIRGINIA BENNETT, MRS. H. J. CONLON, MRS. JERRY VOKACEK, VERNE JOHNSON, MRS. VERNE JOHNSON, R. M. BENNETT, E. S. MCFARLAND, MRS. ROBERT HEAPS, MRS. E. S. MCFARLAND, GERDA WICHTERMAN, LILLIAN LIVENGOD, CLARA BEST, JERRY VOKACEK AND MR. AND MRS. E. M. BOGUE.

Distorted Films

Though our times call for serious and rational thinking, we are being subjected in this community to two inflammable, inaccurate and distorted vehicles of propaganda on the map.

Rusk, the secretary of state, has said that our present administration (and I venture most of our serious citizenry) is as much opposed to tyranny from the "right" as from the "left."

One favorite communist technique is to fraudulently manipulate historical events to fit the party line. Fascist technique follows the pattern of its chief architect Hitler, who, under pretext of defending the republic against communism, subverted its purpose and suppressed German liberties. Both systems follow the technique of silencing opposition by mass murder. We do not forget communist brutality and slaughter, by starvation and the sword, in Russia, Tibet and Hungary; nor do we forget that 6,000,000 human beings were sent to their deaths by the nazis in the gas chambers and ovens of Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Belsen and Dachau.

Growing Threat

As Dr. Costigan, a recognized scholar at the University of Washington, points out, the danger abroad is obviously from the left, but at home, attempting to capitalize on that danger, is the growing threat from right extremists. The activities of these extremists are documented exhaustively in a recent publication which can be secured from the University of Illinois, "The American Right Wing." The people described in this publication put out the film, "Communism on the Map," and they are presently, with the aid of the John Birch society, engaged in distributing and showing that film and another, "Operation Abolition."

In this endeavor they are aided and abetted by others, including Donald Jackson, a former member of the house un-American activities committee from California, and more locally the Boeing Airplane company.

Admittedly Inaccurate

These films are admittedly inaccurate and distorted. One of the most glaring falsehoods of the long version of "Communism on the Map" describes Catholic Ireland as "deep in socialism," virtually bankrupt and "with strong communist cells in strategic spots which would take over in a crisis." Contrarywise, conservative Senator Barry Goldwater tells us that although Ireland is the poorest country in the world, it is the poorest country in the world.

This committee has been responsible for and sponsors the film, "Operation Abolition." By standards normally applied to others, this committee should explain the kind of support it had on January 2 on the far side of Lafayette park in Washington when Rockwell's American Nazi party paraded with the American flag and swastika side-by-side, carrying banners reading "nazi support the HUAC" and "Only Jews and Reds oppose the Committee."

John Birch Society

The John Birch society was blisteringly denounced on the senate floor March 20 by Senator Young, Republican of North Dakota, and in a signed editorial by Otis Chandler, publisher of the conservative Republican Los Angeles Times on March 12. The founder of this society, one Robert Welch, once labeled former President Eisenhower as a "dedicated, conscious agent of the communist conspiracy."

Others charged by this society with being communists or communist dupes are former Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, his brother Allan, head of CIA, former Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, Neil McElroy, former secretary of defense, and Chief Justice Warren of the supreme court. In the society's "Blue Book" its founder wrote that "democracy is merely a deceptive phrase, a weapon of demagoguery, and a perennial fraud." This society does not make public the names of its members, hence it, too, is a cell organization. Last year it urged its members to get into the local PTAs, take them over and straighten them out.

Despite wide information recently circulated about this society in Time magazine, the New York Times on March 11 reported that the senate internal security subcommittee of the United States in evaluating this society, in a form letter over the signature of Senator Eastland, Mississippi Democrat, said "The John Birch society, about which you asked, is known to be a conservative anticommunist organization . . . We are happy to state that it seems to be, from our records, a patriotic organization."

Perhaps the United States un-American activities committee ought to investigate the senate internal security subcommittee's report.